

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116

Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 1700

Application No. 10/540,365

Paper Dated: March 28, 2008

In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of December 3, 2007

Attorney Docket No. 2950-051771

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A work-hardened stainless steel sheet comprising:

a chemical composition consisting of 0.15 mass % or less of C, 1.0 mass % or less of Si, 1.0 mass % or less of Mn, 0.005 mass % or less of S, ~~10-20~~ 10-12.6 mass % of Cr, 0.5 mass % or less of Ni, 0.001-0.05 mass % of Al and the balance being Fe except inevitable impurities; and

a work-hardened ferritic structure, wherein at least one of Al_2O_3 and $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-MgO}$ inclusions of 10 μm or less in size are distributed with an index of cleanliness of 0.06% or less.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The work-hardened stainless steel sheet of claim 4, wherein the stainless steel sheet has yield strength within a range of 500-900 N/mm².

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A work-hardened stainless steel sheet comprising:

a chemical composition consisting of 0.15 mass % or less of C, 1.0 mass % or less of Si, 1.0 mass % or less of Mn, 0.005 mass % or less of S, ~~10-20~~ 10-12.6 mass % of Cr, 0.5 mass % or less of Ni, 0.001-0.05 mass % of Al, and at least one of 0.5-2.0 mass % of Mo, 0.5-3.0 mass % of Cu and 0.05-1.0 mass % of Nb, and the balance being Fe except inevitable impurities; and

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a work-hardened ferritic structure, wherein at least one of Al_2O_3 and $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3\text{-MgO}$ inclusions of $10 \mu\text{m}$ or less in size are distributed with an index of cleanliness of 0.06% or less.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The work-hardened stainless steel sheet of claim 6, wherein the stainless steel sheet has yield strength within a range of 500-900 N/mm^2 .